

Bill Barron – CEO
Crofting Commission
Great Glen House,
Leachkin Road,
Inverness,
IV3 8NW

18 Sultain/September 2022

<p>A Mhgr Barron a charaid,</p> <p>Mu: Plana Poileasaidh Coimisean na Croitearachd 2022</p> <p>Tapadh leibh airson ur litreach air 30 Lùnastal 2022 a’ sireadh bheachdan air an dreachd Phlana Poileasaidh agaibh airson 2022.</p> <p>Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a’ cur fàilte mhòr air na h-ìomraidhean air a’ Ghàidhlig anns an dreachd phlana poileasaidh. Gu sònraichte, gu bheil an Coimisean ag aithneachadh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cho cudromach ’s a tha a’ Ghàidhlig ann an iomadh coimhearsnachd croitearachd.• Cho cudromach ’s a tha iomadachd am measg chroitearan (tha sinn a’ gabhail ris gu bheil seo a’ gabhail a-steach luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig).• An ìre ’s gun do chuidich croitearachd agus gu h-àraid na coimhearsnachdan a tha stèidhichte air croitearachd gus a Ghàidhlig a ghleidheadh mar chànan coimhearsnachd. <p>Tha a’ phuing mu dheireadh seo mar thoradh air, mar a tha an dreachd phlana poileasaidh ag ràdh, gu bheil croitearachd “ a’ cuideachadh le glèidheadh-sluaigh taobh a-staigh nan siorrachdan croitearachd agus sgìrean croitearachd ainmichte, leis a’ bhuaidh</p>	<p>Dear Mr Barron,</p> <p>RE: Crofting Commission Policy Plan 2022</p> <p>Thank you for your letter of 30 August 2022 seeking views on your draft Policy Plan 2022.</p> <p>Bòrd na Gàidhlig very much welcomes the references to Gaelic in the draft policy plan. In particular, that the Commission recognises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The importance of the Gaelic language within many crofting communities.• The importance of having diversity amongst crofters (which we take to include the presence of Gaelic speakers).• The extent to which crofting and in particular the communities based around crofting helped the Gaelic language to survive as a living language. <p>The last of these points is due to the fact that, as the draft policy plan states, crofting “assists population retention within the crofting counties and designated crofting areas, with the associated social and economic impact of</p>
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shòisealta agus eaconamach co-cheangailte ri sluagh dùthchail a tha ag obair, air solarachadh sheirbheisean coimhearsnachd leithid cùram slàinte agus sgoiltean". Mar sin, tha croitearachd air cuideachadh agus coimhearsnachdan a dhèanamh ion-obrachail a' gabhail a-steach coimhearsnachdan le luchd-labhairt Gàidhlig.

Tha seo a' cumail taic ri Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig. Tha seo ag ràdh "Tha gnìomhachasan traidiseanta, leithid iasgach agus croitearachd.... cuideachd a' toirt seachad chothroman gus Gàidhlig a chleachdadh agus airson luach a' chànain àrdachadh do luchd-labhairt".

Bu chòir dhan dreach mu dheireadh den phlana poileasaidh iomradh a thoirt air na gealltanasan aig a' Choimisean anns a' Phlana Ghàidhlig aige. Tha sin a' gabhail a-steach a bhith ag innse mar a tha an Coimisean, ann a bhith a' cruthachadh a' phlana poileasaidh ùr, air a ghealltanas a choileanadh:

"Ann a bhith a' cur ri chèile, ag ùrachadh agus a' sgrùdadh phoileasaidhean, cuimhneachaidh an Coimisean air na gealltanasan a chaidh a dhèanamh anns a' Phlana Ghàidhlig seo agus nì sinn cinnteach gum bi a' bhuidhe a bheir iad air a' Ghàidhlig a rèir Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig".

Bu chòir dhan earrainn "**Poileasaidh air ìrean seirbheis**" sa phlana poileasaidh iomradh a thoirt air na h-ìrean seirbheis a tha an Coimisean air gealltainn sa Phlana Ghàidhlig aige. Tha seo a' gabhail a-steach "A' meudachadh ìomhaigh agus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig tro raon de sheirbheisean Gàidhlig a bhith ri fhaighinn ann an sgìrean far a bheil comasan Gàidhlig aig 20% no barrachd den t-sluagh.

Bu chòir dhan phlana poileasaidh iomradh a thoirt cuideachd air gealltanasan a' Phlana

a working, rural population on the provision of community services such as healthcare and schools". Thus, crofting has helped to make communities viable including those with Gaelic speakers.

This is supportive of the current National Gaelic Language Plan. This states "Traditional industries, such as fishing and crofting.... also provide opportunities for using Gaelic and for increasing the value of the language to speakers".

The final version of the policy plan should reference the Commission's commitments contained in its Gaelic Language Plan. That includes stating how, in creating the new policy plan, the Commission has met its commitment that:

"In the formation, renewal and monitoring of policies, the Commission will consider the commitments made in this Gaelic Language Plan and ensure that the impacts on Gaelic will be in line with the National Gaelic Language Plan".

The "**Policy on levels of service**" section of the policy plan should reference the levels of service that the Commission has committed to in its Gaelic Language Plan. That includes "Increasing the profile and use of Gaelic through the availability of a range of Gaelic medium services in areas where 20% or more of the population have Gaelic abilities".

The policy plan should also reference the Gaelic Language Plan's commitments

Ghàidhlig a thaobh conaltradh leis a' phoball.
Mar eisimpleir:

- Thèid daoine a tha ag iarraidh cumail orra a' conaltradh sa Ghàidhlig mun chùis aca a chur air adhart gu oifigeir le Gàidhlig nuair as urrainnear.
- Nuair a tha fios againn gur e conaltradh sa Ghàidhlig as fheàrr le daoine no buidhnean, thèid seo a chur an comas.
- A' cur fàilte air foirmichean-iarrtais air an lìonadh sa Ghàidhlig agus a' cruthachadh dhreachdan sònraichte de dh'fhoirmean ma thèid sin iarraidh.

Mu dheireadh, tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig ag aithneachadh sa Phlana Corporra 2018-23 gum feum sinn uile a bhith "a' cruthachadh ro-innleachdan a tha air an dealbhadh a rèir feumalachdan agus cothroman sònraichte choimhearsnachdan dùthchail is bailteil, mar sin ag adhbharachadh coimhearsnachdan Gàidhlig nas treasa." Tha sinn a' dèanamh fiughair ri bhith ag obair ann an com-pàirteachas le Coimisean na Croitearachd gus cur ri fàs is soirbheachadh na croitearachd agus na Gàidhlig sna bliadhnaichean ri teachd.

around communication with the public.
For example:

- Callers who wish to continue to communicate in Gaelic about their case are directed to a Gaelic-speaking officer whenever possible.
- Where it is known that individuals or organisations prefer communications in Gaelic, this is facilitated.
- Welcoming the completion of application forms in Gaelic and creating bespoke versions of forms on request.

Finally, Bòrd na Gàidhlig recognises in its Corporate Plan 2018-23 that we need all to be "developing strategies which are tailored to the distinct needs and opportunities of rural and urban communities, leading to stronger Gaelic communities." We look forward to working in partnership with the Crofting Commission to assist the growth and success of crofting and the Gaelic language for years to come.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd,

Shona Nicllinnein

Ceannard - Bòrd na Gàidhlig